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ade terms with the Senate. It well suited the oman policy to have a powerful ally on the Bos-lorus, strong in the ships in which Rome was ually deficient. As a *libera et feederata civitas*, By-ntium enjoyed a more or less prosperous history itil the days of Vespasian, who stripped it of its ivileges. These were restored, but a shattering ow overtook the city at the close of the second ntury, when Septimus Severus took it by storm, tigry at its long resistance, Severus levelled its rtifications to the ground,—a work of endless toil, r the stones and blocks had been so clamped to-ther that the walls were one solid mass. How-er, before he died, he repented him of the destruc->n which he had wrought and gave orders for the ills to be built anew. It was the Byzantium as Duilt by Severus that Constantine determined to ound on a far more splendid scale. No subsequent historian has improved upon the nving passage in which Gibbon summarises the :omparable advantages of its site, which appears, he well says, to have been " founded by Nature * the centre and capital of a great monarchy." e may quote the passage in full from his seven-inth chapter:

< Situated in the forty-first degree of latitude—prae-ally the same, it may be noted, as that of Rome, Mad-, and New York—the imperial city commanded from : seven hills the opposite shores of Europe and Asia; i climate was healthy and temperate; the soil fertile; i harbour secure and capacious; and the approach the side of the continent was of small extent and easy